



# SoLiS

Newsletter of the

## Southeast Library System

### SOWINGS

February 2014

February stands out as a little different from other months because of some oddities, not the least of which is it has fewer days but occasionally adds an extra just because it can. Despite this, there's a lot that goes on if you pay attention. It's almost like a good novel. There's romance with Valentine's Day, reminiscing & history with both Black History Month & President's Day, excitement & heartbreak (depending on your fan base) with the Super Bowl, and a worldly outlook with the Olympics. There's also drama with the Bilbiostat & E-Rate deadline. There's a lot thrown into a short amount of space.

The romance of February caters to lovers. Lovers of books and literature, that is. Why not write valentines in the style of famous literary couples? There are plenty of classics to choose from such as Romeo & Juliet, Lancelot & Guinevere, Jane Eyre & Rochester, Elizabeth Bennett and Mr. Darcy, or even current favorites like Ron & Hermione or Edward and Bella. Well, maybe not the last one.

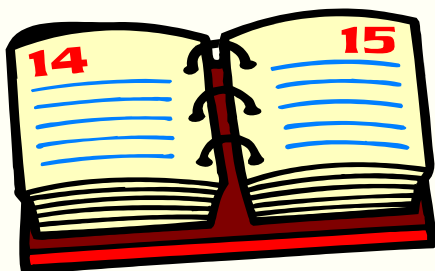
Like any good novel, February has characters that inspire and amaze. Not only were Lincoln and Washington born in February, but how about Steve Jobs, John Kellogg, Chuck Yeager, Susan B. Anthony, Buffalo Bill Cody or other historical figures? They weren't the only ones to do interesting things in February. Some other historical events in the month of February were the unsealing of King Tut's tomb, the first 911 system installation, John Glenn being the first American to orbit the Earth, and the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment giving women the right to vote and more, each having enough material to fill several novels.

*(Continued on page [3](#))*

### Photo of the Month



*Head Start Students with their Big Green Monsters. The students made these monsters during the Collaborative Storytime at Pawnee City Public Library. See page [6](#) for more.*



# CALENDAR

February 2014

**February**— Black History Month

**February 13th**— CASTL Meeting at Wymore Public Library. Topic: National Library Week, share your plans for events and displays. Book Talk Theme: Books involving Presidents (biographies, non-fiction, historical fiction... if it involves a president of some kind, it's fair game). All are welcome. Let us know if you plan to attend.

**February 14th**— Bibliostat Deadline.

**February 14th**— Valentine's Day.

**February 15th**— Single's Awareness Day.

**February 16th**— LaVar Burton's Birthday.

**February 16th**— Do a Grouch a Favor Day. Everyone knows one. Why not do something to make their day! Maybe you're the grouchy one. In that case, be a little selfish and do something for yourself!

**February 17th**— Random Acts of Kindness Day. The perfect match for yesterday!

**February 17th**— Presidents' Day and George Washington's Birthday. SELS Office closed.

**February 18th**— National Battery Day.

**February 21st**— SELS Board Meeting, Geneva Public Library. Meeting begins at 10. Let us know if you plan on attending.

**February 23rd, 1989**— Laura Palmer's last diary entry. "Asparagus for dinner..."

**February 26th**— Deadline for E-Rate Form 470.

**February 27th**— No Brainer Day. Remove those easy-to-do tasks from your list!

**February 28th**— Public Sleeping Day... On second thought, librarians deal with this enough already.

**February 28th**— Big Talk from Small Libraries. See page [4](#) for details on the SELS group watch.

**February 29th, 2016**— Leap Day. Don't let this one sneak up on you!

**March**— National Women's History Month

**March 2nd**— Dr. Seuss' Birthday.

**March 2nd**— Read Across America Day.

**March 6th**— World Book Day <http://readingagency.org.uk/children/005-get-involved/world-book-day-2014.html>.

**March 8th**— International Women's Day [http://www.internationalwomensday.com/theme.asp#.UvpQO\\_IdXh4](http://www.internationalwomensday.com/theme.asp#.UvpQO_IdXh4).

**March 9th**— Daylight Saving Time begins. Spring Forward.

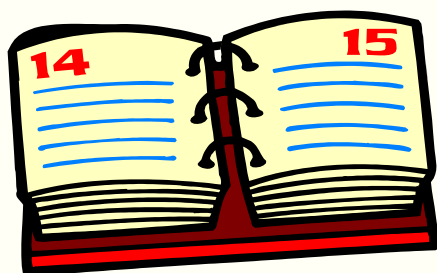
**March 9– 15**— Teen Tech Week: <http://teentechweek.ning.com>.

**March 10– 14**—Spring Break for York College and Concordia University.

**March 11– 15**— Public Library Association 2014 Conference in Indianapolis

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# CALENDAR

**February 2014**

**March 13th**— CASTL Meeting at Exeter Public Library. Topic: Dealing with Medical Emergencies [tentative, speaker pending]. Book Talk Theme Books turned into movies, or movies turned into books (March 13th is National Popcorn Day). All are welcome. Let us know if you plan to attend.

**March 14th**— National  $\pi$  Day <http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=2147483830>.

**March 14– 17**—Spring Break for Doane College.

**March 15th**— Ides of March (*The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*).

**March 15th, T.A. 3019**— Battle of Pelenoor Fields (*Return of the King*).

**March 16th**— Freedom of Information Day <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/federallegislation/govinfo/opengov/freedomofinfo>

**March 17th**— St. Patrick's Day.

**March 20th**— March Equinox. Spring Begins!

**March 20th**— Extraterrestrial Abduction Day. Better keep an eye on the sky!

**March 21st**— World Poetry Day <http://www.un.org/en/events/poetryday/>.

**March 22nd**— National Goof-Off Day.

**March 22nd**—Wonder Woman's Birthday.

**March 24– 28**— Spring Break for UNL, Nebraska Wesleyan University and Union College.

**March 25th**— Waffle Day. Day 1 of 2. Mark down August 24th for National Waffle Day. The March day has Swedish origins.

**March 26th**— International Create Your Own Holiday Day. Need an idea for one? We've got a ton of great ideas like National Regional Library System Day.

**March 29th**— Festival of Smoke and Mirrors.

**March 31st**— Bunsen Burner Day.

**April 3rd**— CASTL Meeting at Syracuse Public Library.

**April 24th**— SELS Friends Aged to Perfection at James Arthur Vineyards. Please note the change.

## Sowings Continued

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If you don't want things to get too serious, there's plenty of whimsy. You could do something based on the Old English terms for the month, Solmonath and Kale-monath, translated roughly to "mud month" and "cabbage month". Then again, it might be hard to get people in to the library for a "mud and cabbage bash", but it might fly if your neighborhood has an overabundance of either.

So February is a month full of interest, history, and just like this article, a little bit of silliness. Enjoy it while it lasts – March is just around the corner.

Scott Childers, Executive Director  
Southeast Library System



Back by popular demand....

## BIG TALK from SMALL LIBRARIES VIEWING PARTY

At Seward Memorial Library



-Wikipedia Commons

Lost, Sopranos, The Bachelor, and Big Talk for Small Libraries. What do these programs have in common? Well, they all inspire fans to gather for viewing parties. That's exactly what Southeast Library System is going to do! - for Big Talk from Small Libraries at least.

Our group viewing will be held at Seward Memorial Library.

The conference begins at 8:45 am.

The webconference is free. Bring your lunch, plan on lunch on your own, or (if enough are interested) we may pitch in to get a pizza or two (or twelve).

If you wish to attend the group viewing, please contact the SELS office. We'll handle the registration & CE credit submission for those attending at Seward.

Either in a group or on your own; at Seward or at your own library - I encourage you to make time for the Big Talk From Small Libraries webconference! More info on the program can be found on <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/>.



## Southeast Library System Front Porch Award Application

The Front Porch Award is presented to a library (academic, institutional, public or school) that displays ingenuity in creating an atmosphere that welcomes patrons to their facility. This award and \$100 will be presented during National Library Week, April 13-19, 2014. Non-accredited libraries are welcome to apply.

### Enclose the following with your nomination:

Name of Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Individual submitting the application: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- In 250 words or less, state why your library deserves this award.
- Information about activities/programs you have developed for your library.
- Two letters of recommendation from any library supporter.
- Any other information that shows your library deserves this award.

Nominations must be submitted to:  
Southeast Library System Administrator  
5730 R St. Ste. C-1  
Lincoln, NE 68505  
[selsne@gmail.com](mailto:selsne@gmail.com)

**Application deadline is March 1, 2014**



## Collaborative StoryTime



Pre-School students with their pilgrim puppets.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the first expanded StoryTime took place. Seitz, Morehead, and the three volunteers were on hand to greet 17 students who arrived via bus along with their 2 teachers. Three regular StoryTime students were also included in the day. Students listened to the book *Go Away, Big Green Monster* by Ed

By Colleen Morehead

When attendance at Pawnee City Public Library's weekly StoryTime program dropped off this fall, director Lola Seitz did some investigating and creative problem solving. She found approximately 35 children of the target age to be enrolled in area programs such as Head Start and Pre-School. This reduced our possible attendance base for StoryTime to almost nil.

The Pawnee library enjoys a good relationship with the local schools, collaborating on many youth activities. Seitz decided perhaps StoryTime could be yet another such joint endeavor. She first contacted the director of the Head Start program, proposing their students attend StoryTime once a month. The Head Start director agreed to attend on a trial basis.

StoryTime leader, Colleen Morehead, began making plans for the prospect of including an estimated 20 extra students for an upcoming session. With the increased number of students it seemed a good idea to enlist the help of others. Morehead made phone calls and found three volunteers who agreed to assist with the group.

Emberley. With adults assisting, the students each made their own Big Green Monster. After the craft they learned the chant "Monster, Monster, how scary can you be?" and took turns naming the person scared by the monster.

The first expanded StoryTime was deemed a success. The Head Start director said it was well worth the extra time it took to get the students buckled into the bus for the drive to the library. She stated a craft activity of that level isn't possible with their limited staff. The volunteers helped make it a fun and successful activity for all students.

The positive collaboration with the Head Start program impelled Seitz to suggest the same scenario for the Pre-School class. The offer was enthusiastically accepted. November 26, 19 preschoolers, along with their teacher and 2 aides, walked the 3 blocks from their school to the library. The students participated in the reading of a rebus story about Thanksgiving. They were all successful in making a pilgrim puppet from a lunch sack, thanks to the assistance of the adults. They learned the song "The Pilgrims Came to America", before bundling up for the walk back to their school.

According to Morehead, this has been a learning

# {News Around the System}

process. "Initially I wanted to schedule the two groups on separate days, thinking we wouldn't be able to handle them all at once. But then I found it was expecting quite a bit of my volunteers to be available two days. We compromised by having both groups on the same day at separate times. The Pre-Schoolers come at 9:30 and we wave goodbye to them as the Head Start students arrive at 10:30. It's sort of like having a dress rehearsal.

After the first group, we critique what went right and what we should change before the second group arrives."

The collaborative partnership for StoryTime has worked so well, Seitz plans to continue it through the remainder of this school year and have it ready to go in the fall with all new Pre-School and Head Start classes.

## Take Your Child to the Library Day!



By Charlotte Baldinger

Do you know why the first Saturday in February is special? The children in Seward discovered that this is national "Take Your Child to the Library Day!" Seward Memorial Library invited families to "pop" into the library and celebrate! The library hosted a three-day popcorn themed open house with free cookies and had many books available for reading in the library or at home. Valuable information about reading aloud to children was on hand for parents

who stopped in. As an extra incentive, students in elementary school who visited the library were counted and the classroom with the highest percentage at the open house received a prize. This first-time event was well attended with over 260 people "popping in for a good book." The students in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Seward Elementary and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at St. John Lutheran School will enjoy treat bags of prizes as well as the books they selected from Seward Memorial Library.



## PUZZLED???

By Glenda Willnerd

The Palmyra Memorial Library hosted International Puzzle Day on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. The Iwan Family took the challenge and put together several puzzles. Pictured are Samuel with the Clifford puzzle and Henry with his father tackling the 100 piece puzzle.



## Tri County 5th Graders Experience an Author Skype

By Kim McCain

Have you ever finished reading a book and wished you could ask the author a few questions about the book? The fifth grade class at Tri County recently were given just that opportunity. The class finished reading the book "Because of Mr. Terrupt" which had received the Golden Sower Award for the state of Nebraska. The author is Rob Buyea from Massachusetts.

To prepare for this meeting, students first wrote questions they wanted to ask Rob in the 30-minute conversation. Using the program Skype and a webcam, the students "called" Rob and visited with him while he was at home. Rob was able to answer questions like why he selected one of the characters to get hurt in the book. Students also asked Rob about the writing process and learned

he likes to write at his dining room table, which they were able to see. Rob also explained how teaching 4th graders for six years helped him write his book. Rob shared how being a wrestler helped him understand the importance of working hard and having perseverance.







now has a book budget instead of relying on donations, and Webermeier Memorial Library in Milford will receive a cut of the anonymous \$6.5 million donation made to the city.

We were also host to a nice surprise when Nebraska Library Association President Robin Brooks entered the meeting to present a long overdue plaque of recognition to Crete Library Director, Lisa Olivigini, for her time as NLA President.

To see a list of the all the books chosen for book talks for this meeting, visit: [https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/70715.CASTL\\_January\\_2014](https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/70715.CASTL_January_2014)

In the afternoon, we talked about ideas on dispersal of books either removed from

collections or duplicate donations. This information will be broken out to a separate article on page [11](#).

# {CASTL Wrap Up}

January's CASTL meeting was hosted by Director Karen Frank of Greenwood Public Library. We had a good turnout, even with having to reschedule for the weather.

We started with the round robin discussion time. We had an interesting discussion about the benefits of the different levels of accreditation. Using it for PR or campaigning for extra budget dollars were some ideas that came up.

A couple of libraries mentioned building issues, including walls that are starting to lean, hot water systems that don't work, and not having enough lights around the public outdoors area.

Many of the attendees talked about upcoming programs, including starting a LEGO club, a Dr. Seuss party, using rubber bands to create jewelry and using passive programming more for craft projects.

Some good news to especially highlight was that Waverly Community Library



CASTL meetings are open to librarians of all types, library trustees, and library friends or supporters. The meetings typically start at 10:00 a.m., and wrap up by 3:00 or 3:30. Each meeting has a dedicated topic of focus, as well as a round robin for discussion and sharing of current issues, topics and library happenings. Attendees earn continuing education hours and you are welcome to join us for all or even part of the day.

- February 13th—Wymore Public Library
- March 13th—Exeter Public Library
- April 3rd—Syracuse Public Library

# Read Aloud Nebraska Rob Reid Workshop

Friday, April 4, 2014

Seward Memorial Library

233 South 5th Street, Seward, NE



Suggestions of good picture books, chapter books, biographies, and even graphic novels to read aloud to children (preschool through middle school grades). Read-aloud tips will be given and Rob will share his story about how he got hooked on the cause of reading aloud to young people.

## Agenda

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

**Registration, Coffee and Book Sales**

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**Welcome**

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Reid's Read-Alouds**

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Lunch** (catered in)

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Making Lit Come Alive**

Making Literature Come Alive through Storytelling, Poetry, and Music. This will be a highly participative exploration of how storytelling, poetry, and music are extensions and connections to specific children's books.

3:00 p.m.

**Book Signing**

**To register, visit [www.readaloudnebraska.org](http://www.readaloudnebraska.org)**

## Public Libraries Invited to Apply for Internship Grants

By Kathryn Brockmeier

Application deadline: **Feb. 18, 2014**

Award amount: **\$500 – \$1,000**

The [Nebraska Library Commission's Cultivating Rural Librarians' Technology Skills](#) program offers support for internships through grants to accredited public libraries. In partnership with the [Nebraska Library Association](#) and funded through a grant from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, the [internship grants](#) increase awareness about library professions and education and the opportunities for employment in Nebraska libraries.

**So, what can your library do with the internship program?**

- Share your enthusiasm for library education and the library professionExpand your programming
- Bring in fresh faces
- Show interns what happens behind-the-scenes
- Partner with other library types to show the variety of work settings

Internship grants range from \$500 to \$1,000. A library may provide one 100-hour internship during the summer months that might last eight weeks, or two 50-hour internships during the school year that might last ten weeks, depending on the needs of the library and the scheduling needs and qualifications of the internship candidates. Library grantees will recruit, select, and hire their interns. Usually, interns are hired as contract workers and paid on a stipend rather than an hourly wage, but the terms of employment are determined by the library's governing body. Interns provide valuable assistance with library service activities and local library programming. Library staff help introduce interns to the joys of library service careers. Partnership projects involving collaboration between a public library and another type of library will be given special consideration.

**Web conferencing:** NLC staff are available by [phone](#) and through [e-mail](#) to discuss general issues relating to the internship grant program.

**To apply:** Applications are now being accepted. The deadline for applications is **Feb. 18, 2014**. More information is available on the Now Hiring @ your library® website, at <http://nowhiringatyourlibrary.nebraska.gov/Internships.asp>.



# Book Disposal Options

Disposal of books from a library is one of those tasks that cause librarians a bunch of grief. Either because of local sentiment against removing them, finding a responsible way to find another place for them, or a plethora of other reasons. At our January CASTL meeting, we approached this topic, and these are some of the choices that came up.

One of the most common ways is to hold a book sale. For some this is done by the library, in others the Friends or Foundation run the sale. This is still a popular choice and sometimes is what gets the community to gather in the building in the first place. Some have a year round book sale, dedicating a shelf near the door for patrons to pick up things like paperbacks for a small price on their way in or out. One thing to remember – you do need to pay sales tax for book sales. Even if it is your Friends or Foundation group handling the sale, if you have a price on them or something like “a bag of books is \$5”, sales tax is due. Some libraries choose to go with a free will donation instead. The people who cart out 5 boxes and give you a nickel are often balanced out by those who pick up a handful of books and leave a \$20 bill in the kitty.

An issue with book sales is that often times there are books left over. Some libraries will hold them over for another sale or two, but many don't have the storage space to do so. That's when one of the other options may be desired.

Look for places to donate titles. Local charities, religious groups, or institutions may desire some, if not all, of the books you are trying to find other homes for. Another place to look at if you have aesthetically pleasing looking books would be possibly donating books to a local furniture store for their displays or to a school or community theater group to act as set dressings. They can only take so many, so don't be surprised if they are very choosy in what they accept.

Another donation possibility would be to use a website like [www.booksforsoldiers.com](http://www.booksforsoldiers.com) to see if you can fill one of their wish lists. The military doesn't accept unsolicited donations anymore, so you would need to be able to provide titles that were asked for.

Perhaps you want to see if you can gain a little bit of money for your books. There are a few options available to you. Book Prospector and Library Consignment are two web site that let you scan in the ISBN of the book, and they will tell you if they want it or not. You then send the books to them and then when they sell the title, you get a cut of the proceeds.

Got a lot of books, and not a lot of time to scan them all? Perhaps you can use a service like Better World Books ([www.betterworldbooks.com](http://www.betterworldbooks.com)). There is no need to scan the books beforehand. Just box them up and send them in. What they can sell, you get a portion of the profits. They donate some titles to libraries in schools in developing countries, and the rest gets recycled responsibly.

There are a few things that it seems nobody takes. Textbooks & old encyclopedias are two prime examples. There's even a place that will take them called SCARCE Book rescue. ( <http://www.scarcecoed.org/rescue-programs/book-rescue/donate-books.html> ) You should probably email them first. Got a bunch of other periodicals? The United States Book Exchange: <http://www.usbe.com/about.html#donations> will take them, but in both these cases – the library has to pay shipping.

The landscape has changed dramatically since even a few years ago when it comes to responsible ways to deal with weeded titles and duplicate donations. A few libraries even make a tidy bit of money to stretch their budgets each year. This is a lot better than sneaking boxes of books out the back door in the middle of the night.

## Southeast Library System

**Serving libraries in the counties  
of:**

Cass • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton •  
Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster •  
Nemaha • Otoe • Pawnee •  
Richardson • Saline •  
Seward • Thayer • York

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## February 2014

*Of course, you don't have to take  
my word for it*

*-LaVar Burton,*

Reading Rainbow

Southeast Library System is a multi-type library network with 248 members offering a wide range of service in public, school, academic, institutional and private libraries (Membership list with populations from 2000 Census are on the SELS web page: [www.selsne.org](http://www.selsne.org).) Membership includes 12 academic institutions, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, four private colleges, three community college campuses, a state college and a technical school. Fifty-four public libraries are system members. The majority of these libraries (34) serve populations fewer than 1,000. The system counts 146 school media centers among its members, 54 that are Lincoln Public Schools, with most of those belonging to Class 3 schools (population areas between 1,000 and 100,000). Fourteen of the school media centers are parochial. The system has 28 special and institutional members, most of which are located in Lancaster County.